



Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

State of New Jersey
Department of Community Affairs
Division of Codes and Standards
PO Box 802
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0802



Charles A. Richman
Acting Commissioner

BULLETIN NO.

90-7

Date: **December 1990**
Code Ref. Update: **December 2005**

Subject: **Churches and Houses of
Worship, Mixed-Use
Occupancy**

Reference: **N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.14,**
Building Subcode, Section
302.3

It has been brought to the attention of the Department of Community Affairs that there have been instances when code officials are not properly enforcing the mixed-use and occupancy requirements when reviewing plans for church buildings and houses of worship.

Local enforcing agencies are classifying most churches and houses of worship as Group A-3, irrespective of what other facilities may be included in the building. A number of churches and houses of worship have large assembly halls with commercial kitchens which are used for functions other than church services. These portions of the building must be classified as Group A-3, also. Some churches and houses of worship have day-care or child-care facilities, which should be properly classified (Group E, I-4, or R-3 depending on the age and number of occupants). With such ancillary facilities, a church or house of worship becomes a mixed-use building and all the relevant provisions of the Building Subcode section concerning mixed uses (area, exits, fire separation, fire protection, etc.) shall apply.

Code enforcing agencies are advised to exercise caution in reviewing the plans and carrying out inspections of church buildings and houses of worship so as not to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

BULLETIN